

Message Text

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61

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 OPR-01 PM-03 SP-02 IO-03 SSO-00 /041 W

----- 031402

R 131120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9749

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4583

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AEMR CB RP

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC JITTERS AND AIR CAMBODGE

1. THE FORTHCOMING DEPARTURE OF THE AUSTRIALIAN EMBASSY STAFF (NOW RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 15) IS FAIRLY WELL KNOWN AROUND TOWN NOW. IT HAS MADE MANY OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE THE TENDENCY OF BEING JITTERY EVEN MORE SO. THE BEST EXAMPLE IS THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD COUNTED ON THE VIETNAMESE FOR EVACUATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, AND WHO HAS NOW BEEN TOLD THAT THE VIETNAMESE CANNOT LIVE UP TO THEIR COMMITMENT. IN A SEPERATE MESSAGE I AM SUGGESTING THAT WE ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THREE PHILIPPINO DIPLOMATS AS PART OF OUR EVACUATION PLAN, HOPEFULLY THIS WILL STEADY THE GENTLEMAN.

2. ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE MALAISE IS THE FAILURE OF AIR CAMBODIGE TO FLY AS SCHEDULED. MOST IF NOT ALL OF THEIR FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS. AT THE LAST MOMENT KHMERS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE FRANTICALLY CALL THEIR FRIENDS IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO ASK TO BE PUT ON THE USAID FLIGHT TO BANGKOK OR ON OTHER AIRCRAFT OVER WHICH WE HAVE CONTROL TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WE, THE AMERICANS, ARE NOW THE ONLY LINK WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

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3. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I CALLED PRIME MINISTER LONG

BORET AT HOME (HE IS SICK TODAY) AND THE DIRECTOR OF
CABINET OF THE MARSHAL TO TELL THEM THAT ANYWHERE BETWEEN
30 AND 50 AMERICAN FLIGHTS LAND AND TAKE OFF FROM
POCHENTONG AIRPORT DAILY. IF THE AMERICANS CAN TAKE
THE RISK IN SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA, THE LEAST THAT THE
CAMBODIAN NATIONAL AIRLINE CAN DO IS TO FLY ONCE DAILY
OUT OF PHNOM PENH. THIS IN ITSELF WOULD STEADY EMOTIONS
HERE, AND THOSE FOREIGNERS AND KHMERS WHO HAVE EXIT
VISAS COULD THEN LEAVE IN AN ORDERLY MANNER. I HOPE THEY
WILL HEED MY ADVICE. IF NOT, I WILL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW
TO GET AIR CAMBODGE TO FLY, IF NOT THEIR CARAVELLE, AT
LEAST A DC-3 OR DC-4.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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